

AGENDA ITEM V E

PROGRESS REPORT ON CONDITIONALLY APPROVED UNIT

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL CENTER

LOUISIANA CENTER FOR RURAL INITIATIVES (LCRI)

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In October 2007, the Board acted as follows:

Approval is granted for the Louisiana Center for Rural Initiatives at Louisiana State University Agricultural Center for a period of three years, effective immediately. By April 1, 2009, the Center shall submit to the Associate Commissioner for Academic Affairs a progress report updating external funding efforts to support future year operations.

The requested progress report was received by staff in early April 2009. Staff notes that the approval period for this unit is valid through October 25, 2010.

STAFF SUMMARY

As dictated by the above motion, the only issue the Board requested to be addressed in the progress report was related to external funding. The budget below shows revenues secured to-date to afford center operations and center costs for the period of approval. The information is as follows:

REVENUE	Year 1 10/07-9/08	Year 2 10/08-9/09	Year 3 10/09-9/10
Federal Grants	\$95,354	\$108,065	\$109,198
State Grants	\$122,883	\$225,000	\$2,500
Other Grants	\$10,293	\$33,615	\$26,652
TOTAL	\$228,530	\$366,680	\$160,850
COSTS	Year 1 10/07-9/08	Year 2 10/08-9/09	Year 3 10/09-9/10
Center administration salary/release	\$10,000	\$10,500	\$11,025

Faculty salary/release	\$30,000	\$31,500	\$33,075
Travel	\$10,000	\$10,500	\$11,025
Technical support (operating services)	\$5,000	\$5,250	\$5,513
Graduate/teaching assistantships	\$15,000	\$15,750	\$16,538
Equipment	\$12,500	\$5,000	\$5,250
Supplies	\$5,000	\$5,250	\$5,513
Other (fringe benefits)	\$14,850	\$15,593	\$16,373
TOTAL	\$102,350	\$99,343	\$104,312

Staff notes that by the end of the period of approval the center could receive an additional \$401,277 from varied external sources as per revenues designated as pending.

STAFF ANALYSIS

The staff commends the center for its productivity and affirms its relevance to the University, the Agricultural Center, and to the overall agricultural mission of LSU A&M. It is noted that funding secured to-date is sufficient enough to afford center operations through the remaining time of the period of approval; as such, no further reporting is necessary.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee receive the April 2009 progress report from the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center relative to the budget for the Louisiana Center for Rural Initiatives. Per the most recent Board action relative to this unit, the request for reauthorization of center status shall be due to the Associate Commissioner for Academic Affairs no later than October 25, 2010. Should such a request not be received by the aforementioned date, the Board of Regents shall re-examine the need for this unit.